



Hearthstone Community Church, Inc.

"The Full Moon Folk"



IN LOVING MEMORY OF MARGARET ALIA DENNY

As many of you already know, Margaret Alia Denny passed from this life on Friday, April 28, 2017. Alia was the founder and president of Hearthstone. She committed much of her time and energy to the church. Not only did Alia attend most of the rituals presented by various groups for Hearthstone, but she took the time to meet with newcomers to the community, college students, and the merely curious – helping to explain Wicca and neo-paganism to those who may have had no exposure to alternative belief systems or those whose only exposure to Wicca may have been from television or movies. In one way or another, she touched everyone in the Denver community – and beyond.

Several years ago she ran as a Libertarian candidate for Arapahoe County Treasurer. She was open about her religious beliefs, which made for quite a bit of news coverage – in Arapahoe County, anyway. She made a pretty fair showing – not bad for a Libertarian/Pagan.

Alia was my best friend. She supported me in good times and bad – even to the extent of disliking my ex-husband more than I did. I tried to be as good a friend to her, but I'm not sure how well I did. She was a second sister to me. She left a loving family behind, and many friends.

Alia, I hope you are raising all sorts of trouble in the Summerland. I will miss you.

–Catherine

<http://hearthstone.fnorky.com>



I'm so sorry. May you be freer than we can imagine, caught up in the joy of the discovery of the life beyond. May the complexities of the Universe open to your vivid imagination and powerful mind in the kind of beauty that brings ecstasy to a loving and curious soul. May your loved ones be strengthened, guided, and comforted as you would have them. I feel lucky to have met you in this lifetime. You have done powerful, good work, in a manner and with a wit that leaves its mark upon the impressionable clay of time. You, your words, and your deeds have mattered. We are better because of your life.

–Paulie Rainbow



I don't normally send in columns to the Hearthstone Newsletter last minute, but the death of Margaret Alia Denny this past Friday night has prompted me to do so. To say that her death was unexpected is an understatement. To say that her loss has devastated the Denver Pagan Community is also an understatement. When I first met Alia in 2008, I had no idea how wonderful she was and what a great friend she would be.

Actually, Alia became more than a friend, she became family. She was the one person I could count on to be there for me no matter what. She and her husbands graciously opened their home to us when we needed a place to stay when coming back to Denver. And she was still my friend afterwards! I truly hope that I was half as good of a friend to her. I don't think I gave her enough credit, and looking back, I think she understood me more than most.

Alia was the epitome of clergy. She listened and guided many people on their paths, even in the mundane. She was very self-aware and this awareness rarely led to bad advice. She reminded me, not so much in words, but in attitude, that life is what you make of it. She didn't let her physical shortcomings stop her from doing the things she most wanted to do and she was a merry companion on several impromptu outings I dragged her to.

It's difficult to imagine life without her now and I think I'm still in shock. However, I will remember her fondly and I don't think a day will go by that I won't miss her. I'm glad that she is now pain free and I imagine she'll be one of the ones waiting for me when I finally cross over to the Summerland. Rest in peace, Alia, we love you.

-Jo Fontana

MAY 5, 2017 OPEN FULL MOON / MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR THE HEARTHSTONE COMMUNITY

Hearthstone meets the Friday before or the Friday of the Full Moon, in the accessible upstairs chapel at the First Unitarian Church at 14th and Lafayette in Denver. The church doors open at 7, and we like to start at 7:30. This month's ritual is FRIDAY, MAY 5, 2017.

On May 5th, Hawk Shadow will lead the Hearthstone community in a memorial ritual for Alia. Please bring your memories of Alia. Alia's family and friends plan to organize another memorial at a later date for the larger Denver pagan community and Alia's other circles of friends. The little chapel where we hold our Open Full Moons won't be large enough for that later memorial service.

-Catherine

HEARTHSTONE RITUALS

Remember, please, that Hearthstone doesn't expect everyone to enter in Perfect Love and Perfect Trust, as there are people you don't know there, but to enter with a willing heart and an open mind, and leave your differences at the door.

Some traditions are more controversial than others, or may contain a component that disturbs someone attending an Open Full Moon. It is one of the risks of exploring different traditions. Should anyone be uncomfortable, unsettled, or upset about any ritual presented by Hearthstone, please contact one of the Board members (Catherine, Arynne, Morgan, or Amy) to discuss – and hopefully resolve and heal – the issue.

–*Alia*

THANKS AND A TIP OF THE HAT

Hearthstone thanks our friends from Chrysalis Circle for offering our April Open Full Moon ritual. Trent and Rainah led the rite, announcing that Sage Brightheart is now their High Priestess Emeritus. Amethyst assisted as well. After cleansing, casting and calling, a Norse God and Goddess were invoked. Astrological influences were explained, and before settling into meditation, we were challenged to consider our unfinished business, evaluate the benefit and importance of completing it, and seek clarity about how to proceed. Attendees were given time to meditate and make notes or journal about our thoughts and insights. Cakes and "wine" were shared.

Thank you, Chrysalis Circle, for the gift of your thoughtful and supportive ritual. Blessings to you, and to each of our Hearthstone attendees who come together each month to share our hearts and spirits in sacred space.

Arynne

ON DONATIONS

Many of our local Pagan organizations run on a shoestring. Your donations do make a difference, and the cost of a movie ticket to one of these organizations from several of their patrons can make the difference between failing and thriving. (Not to mention making the organizers excited and happy that their efforts are of value to you.) If you'd prefer not to donate to Hearthstone, I encourage you to donate something to the organization of your choice. Your donations can make the difference between an organization thriving and folding.

We appreciate that many of you donate to Hearthstone. **We ask that you please give what you can to support the work and service of the church to the community. The more you can spare, the longer we will be around, and the more we can help those who need it. We will keep Hearthstone Community Church, Inc. running as long as possible, and we need your support to continue to serve the community.**

We aren't going to start collecting at the door, and no one will be turned away for not having a donation. However, we would like to *suggest* a donation of 5 to 10 dollars per person. (The extra is to cover the pagans that are unable to donate.) If you can't afford it, you are still welcome – if you can afford more, we'd be delighted to accept it.

NOTE: Hearthstone is a church and your donations to Hearthstone are **tax deductible**. If you would like to write a check so you can keep track of your donations, we can certainly handle that as well.

News from First Unitarian Church – OFMs will temporarily relocate

The church has informed us that they will be totally renovating the church interior starting on July 1, 2017, so we will need to find another space to rent for the late summer/early fall this year. I will be contacting the church for their suggestions as to other space. Also, if anyone has any suggestions, we would appreciate them. We need a relatively inexpensive space, preferably centrally located and on or near a bus line. If you know of a space, please contact one of the Board members.

ORPHEUS PAGAN CHAMBER CHOIR



It's Elemental!

The Complete Evening Edition

A multi-sensory celebration of Earth, Air, Fire, and Water, with Orpheus' unique blend of amazing music spanning seven centuries, featuring the magical "Spell of the Elements" by Abbie Betinis.

Saturday, May 13, 2017 at 7:30 PM

Wash Park Center for Music & Art

400 S. Williams St., Denver

\$20 per person/\$15 Seniors & Students/Under 12 free

To order your concert tickets, go to www.orpheuspcc.org

BELTANIA

[Beltania 2017](#): May 18-21, 2017, Our 10th Anniversary Beltane Festival

It's 4 days of music, magic, spiritual connection, camping, and community. [Special guests include Amber K and Azrael K](#), spiritual teachers who are well known throughout the Earth religions community. We have [musical performances](#) from Celtic singer Celia Farran, the lovely Ariana Saraha, and local performers like Michael Heartsong and Joyous Pool, Kaedrich Olsen, and many more. Concert performances are outside once again, near our [Merchant's Row](#)! We invite you to participate by [joining the staff](#), becoming a [merchant](#), or [presenting a workshop, class, or ritual](#).

Come weave the ribbons around the maypole, dance and drum around the fire, lift your heart in song and ceremony, learn and grow at dozens of workshops and classes, shop at Merchant's Row, hang out in the adults-only Wild Woods or join your kids at our greatly expanded children's activities. Visit the Rainbow Welcome Center that celebrates our diversity, visit the HearthFire Sanctuary or Ancestors Shrine. Walk the labyrinth with us, enjoy soaring views of Pike's Peak

amongst the towering pine trees, and commune with centuries-old Native American prayer trees and medicine trees. All of these are explored on our [Spaces and Traditions](#) page.

We have yurts, cabins, RV parking, and tent camping for those who get 2, 3, and 4-day admission tickets and single day tickets for Friday or Saturday are also available. Get [info on admission and lodging](#). Tickets are available now for Beltania.

Beltania is unique in that we are especially supportive of our diversity. Those who are differently abled will find many ADA accommodations, from the comfortable heated cabins and powered yurts to the many indoor cabin facilities to the free shuttle all around the grounds. We have an [Accessibility Coordinator](#) and ASL sign language interpreter available before and during the festival to provide assistance. Our special [Senior ticket prices](#) we hope will encourage more of our Elders to feel welcomed and valued. Many different spiritual paths are represented at Beltania, and if you don't see our diversity expressed on our [Master Schedule](#) we invite you to offer a workshop or ceremony to help make that happen. The [Rainbow Welcome Center](#) is here to celebrate love and individuality in all its forms, and really bring us together as a community. We offer [rites of passage](#) for both young men and young women. We have greatly expanded [Children's Activities](#) too! ALL ARE WELCOME!

It's May 18-21, 2017 on one hundred of private acreage at [La Foret Conference and Retreat Center](#) located in the Black Forest between Denver and Colorado Springs.

Future Year Special Guest Info: We have Selena Fox returning to Beltania in 2018, and Janet Farrar and Gavin Bone returning in 2019!

[Get Tickets](#) - [Learn More about Beltania](#) - www.beltania.org

Drumming Down the Sun will be Sunday June 18, 2017 from approximately 6:00-8:30 PM. More details to follow. Hosted by Chrysalis Circle.

LUIS, THE SECOND OF THE OGHAM

I write of *Luis*, pronounced lish, the second of the Ogham.

In the Scholar's Primer *luis*, rowan, is named one of the noble trees, the delight of the eye, or a flame. In stories, wands of rowan can transform, the fine mouth of a man is compared to a cluster of rowan berries. There is a passion to the power of the rowan, it catches the attention of the seeker.

This, perhaps points to an immature magic, a magic wielded more with intensity than with wisdom. And yet the same stories refer to the lawful use of magic, a sense that the Irish sought to provide for the common passions of life in a lawful way.

This is a path neither of vengeance, nor of dull restraint, but a path that allows for the fullness of humanity, the complex truths of our possibilities.

This morning, on the weekend of Bealtaine, I walked in the snow through a cemetery, enjoying the cold, the sound of snow falling, the beauty of the trees dusted with, or bowing under, the cold white weight. The slip of green leaves peeked out beneath the fluffy skirts of weather.

My Irish counterparts are celebrating the beginning of summer and, blessed by the warm Atlantic air current, they will not see a snow like this April snow, certainly not at this time of year.

For Colorado, the garden is not safe for the tender until after Mother's day, but the heart of the Druid is refreshed by a wet, icy April wind. I am always more alive, for having walked in full

consciousness of the magic of the earth. And so it is summer, in the snow. And so magic of passion can be lawfully wielded. And so a path, characterized by rote memorization, and recitation, by strict meters of poetry and complex law, can yield a wand of purple rowan that can turn a rival into a pool of water.

This path of magic cannot be read. After three years of study you have more need of a first aid kit, and a sturdy pair of boots than a Book of Shadows.

But when you understand how a fine mouth can be like a cluster of rowan berries, when you feel the feathery beauty of the complex leaves as you brush them with your gaze, when you feel the flame of life flowing beneath the bark, then it connects you to all the world, and it is well worth it.

Peace of the mountains to you,

--Paulie Rainbow

Founder: Denver Celtic Women's Circle

Member: Celtic Druid Temple of Ireland

LINEAGE DOST NOT MAKE AN ELDER

[Author's note: This column was started previous to the death of Alia.]

The other day, during my monthly Trump rage, while reminding people of the global Bind Trump ritual, I was called out onto the mat by one of occultism's self-proclaimed Big Names, who declared that people like myself were destroying the work of decades by Wiccan Elders to convince Christians that Wiccans are not Satanists. Needless to say, I did not take kindly to the lecture, especially given the implication that the lecturer considers themselves a Wiccan Elder—the fact that they called me Forest Gump didn't endear me to them either.

What makes this person a Wiccan Elder? Is it their long experience with Wicca? No, I would not call seven years of experience worthy of the label of Elder. No, what makes this person believe that they are a Wiccan Elder, and a leader of the Craft is the simple fact that they were initiated by someone who was initiated directly by Alex and Maxine Sanders, the founders of Alexandrian Wicca. Likewise, this Big Name is now referring to his wife as "Witch Queen." Again, the only justification is that they claim a superior lineage to the rabble, a claim of initiation that some Alexandrians doubt happened.

In my case, I do believe that an initiation did happen. But I believe that it was the old game of "I will give you a degree, if you give me one." In this case, it appears that a Golden Dawn initiation (an Inner Order one) was given for a Wiccan initiation. It should be noted that I actually doubt that they are just two steps away from the Sanders. Nevertheless, even if they are telling the truth, I do not believe that they deserve the respect they are demanding from others.

This is not the first time that they have played the superior lineage card. For years, this Big Name has claimed to be the best leader in Golden Dawn, for his contact with the Secret Chiefs of the tradition—uber-humans who only he is enlightened enough to be in contact with. And seven years ago, they claimed contact with an uber-secret branch of Italian witchcraft. Two years ago, they received their uber-special Alexandrian initiation.

They are not the only ones who try to play the superior lineage card. One cannot throw a stone without hitting someone who has been personally picked by the gods to lead mankind to a glorious new age, or a witch who is descended from the many witches who were burned in Salem. Mankind is awash with people with better lineages, better contacts, superior wisdom, and better personalities than the rest of us, the unwashed rabble who should fall behind them in adoration.

Unfortunately, the esoteric world has far too many people like myself, who could care less about your superior bloodline, your superior lineage, and you having been kissed by the gods.

No, my Elders are those who have served for years without having to trot out a superior lineage. Morning Glory, former owner of Herbs and Arts, who provided a place for witches to meet and hold classes, she is an Elder in my book. Cassandra Ravenwolf, who taught herb classes, answered my silly questions, and provided a place for the community to meet, she is an Elder in my book. Alia Denny, who has helped introduce many people to the community, with decades of service under her belt, she is an Elder in my book. My Elders have served for decades, and have never asked me to automatically give them respect just because their lineages were better than mine.

And while I will never be an Elder, despite having written about Wicca and witchcraft for twenty-five years, I refuse to respect someone whose only claim to being an Elder is that they have a better lineage than I do. (The exact reason why I am automatically disqualified for Elder status is that no one realizes exactly how long I have been involved in the community, how old I really am, and most importantly, I keep saying things that no proper Elder would dream of saying—the community has voted, and I am exempt from all such duties, thanks to the filthy words that keep coming out of my mouth.) No, only actual service to the community, and acknowledgement by the community that you are doing good work, counts towards being an Elder in my book.

So those people who believe that I should kiss the hem of their robe, due to their uber-specialness, can go wash their heads in a bucket while I continue to be (as this great leader said) the Forest Gump of occultism. After all, I know my place in the scheme of things—I am here to annoy those who seek to be Elders without possessing any actual merit, and expect instant elevation to chief wombat. It is not a nice job, but someone has to do it.

Morgan Drake Eckstein

Morgan Drake Eckstein writes about Golden Dawn, Wicca and other mystery traditions on his blog at: [Musings from the pen: The writer blog of Morgan Drake Eckstein](#); [Gleanings from the Dawn: Thoughts about Golden Dawn from one of its members](#) and [Book Reviews by Morgan: My archive for the book reviews that I have done](#)

Editor's note: As usual, the foregoing column reflects only the views of Morgan and are not necessarily those of Hearthstone or any of its other Board members. Please direct all comments to Morgan.

[Morgan's wife, Khari, sells mundane pottery on Etsy at:

<https://www.etsy.com/shop/celticsouljewelry> and witchy pottery at:

<https://www.etsy.com/shop/Khariswiccantreasure>

TURTLE MONKEY CHILDREN'S BOOKS



Introducing the Turtle Monkey children's book series.

Turtle Monkey and Mama Monkey are the only green monkeys in the village. Turtle Monkey has lots of gas. She received Fuzztastic, her cat, as a Yule gift. Fuzztastic also has lots of gas—but he's afraid of it! Turtle Monkey spends most of her time outside when she isn't in school. Turtle Monkey's Uncle Red and Aunt Tawny live a ferry's ride away, and her Grandma and Grandpa live at the beach. Aunt Fuchsia and Uncle Titian are honorary family members that live down the street from Turtle Monkey and her mother. Turtle Monkey and her friends Coco Monkey, Cap Monkey, and Squirrel Monkey hide in the forest when Little Ape and his friend, Orangutan, are outside. Little Ape is mean, and Turtle Monkey and her friends avoid him as much as possible. Turtle Monkey is mischievous, this gets her into many awkward situations for which she has to think and talk her way out of. There are certain situations that Turtle Monkey cannot talk her way out of, and the results are hilarious. Her hobbies include hunting fairies, catching her own pets, and meeting new friends. Visit our website to sign up for our newsletter at www.turtlemonkeybooks.com

EARTH TEMPLE

Earth Temple meets at Full Moon Books and Event Center, at 9106 W. 6th Ave. in Lakewood, for New/Dark Moon ritual work. We normally begin our rituals right on the dot at 7:30 PM. Join our Meetup Group for reminders and information about specific rituals: www.meetup.com/EarthTemple.

Ritual dates 2017

May 27

June 24

July 22
August 19
September 23
October 21
November 18
December 23

*---Chris, Dara, and Michelle
the Earth Temple steering committee*

WHOM TO CONTACT

Catherine's phone number is 303-886-7067. If you would like to officiate at a future Open Full Moon, for Pagan or Wiccan clergy, or for any other Hearthstone business, please contact Catherine.

Hearthstone Community Church has an active website at <http://hearthstone.fnorky.com> where our dates and newsletters are posted monthly. We also have a Facebook page.

Catherine's e-mail address is fionnula.harp@gmail.com . Arynne's is ArynneD@aol.com.

GUEST COLUMNS?

If you have something to say, and are willing to let Catherine edit it slightly, (generally for grammar – Catherine has been known to grammar-check television commercials) please feel free to submit your writing to fionnula.harp@gmail.com. Content will not be edited. We can usually make room for more voices.

This newsletter is for Hearthstone Community Church, Inc. of Denver, Colorado. Editor: Catherine Mock.

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2017 Open Full Moon Dates

May 5
June 9
July 7
August 4
September 1
September 29
November 3
December 1

The first full moon of 2018 is January 1, but due to the fact that a December 29 OFM would mean 13 in a year, and how busy everyone is around the end of the year, we will not have an Open Full Moon on that date.